

The Community Magazine Serving Corsicana and the Surrounding Area

# CorsicanaNOW

M A G A Z I N E

November 2009


A photograph of three men in military uniforms standing in front of a building. The man on the left is in a white naval uniform, the man in the middle is in a grey camouflage US Army uniform, and the man on the right is in a dark blue Marine uniform. An American flag is visible on the left.

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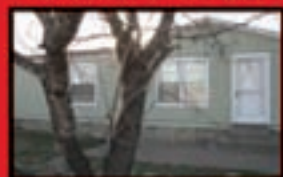
18000 Nelson Loop - Secluded 3/2 waterfront on 2+ acres! Fireplace in master, double walk-in shower, 2 balconies & natural setting. Julie 903-654-3970.



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3004 Hillside - Cute, cute, cute! Move-in ready! New carpet, open floor plan, sprinklers, privacy fenced backyard & on cul-de-sac! Carolyn 903-467-8145.

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Leader of the Pack



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Remember to thank a  
veteran on Veteran's Day,  
November 11, for their  
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Photo by Terri Ozymy

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The Community Magazine  
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the Surrounding Area  
MAGAZINE



## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

It is time to make travel plans, if you are going to Thanksgiving dinner with your family. Or maybe you will be pulling out the big roasting pan for the turkey you will share at home. An interview with the inspiring young recruiters who represent the Army, Navy and Marine Corps at the local Armed Forces Career Center reminded me of the men and women who will not be with their families this year. Maybe we can each do something special for someone who is away from his or her family at holiday time.

Do you need music at your gathering? Meet the Man in Black. Stop by and welcome the new principal at Rice High School. Try a new recipe from the cooking section, and check the calendar for the downtown lighting ceremony. Where else can you sing carols under a lighted oil-derrick Christmas tree? Only in Corsicana!

Happy Holidays,  
Joan Kilbourne  
CorsicanaNOW Editor



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# Thanking THOSE WHO SERVE

— By Joan Kilbourne

**“Many service people come from towns and cities like Corsicana.”**

Thanksgiving is a season when families gather to give thanks for the good things in their lives. It is appropriate at this time to express gratitude for the selfless service and sacrifices made by the men and women in the Armed Services. They are not always able to sit around the family table on the holidays, but their courage and generous spirits give others the freedom and security to enjoy holiday events.

Sergeant Clifford Wiley is the local United States Marine Corps station commander. He grew up in Fort Worth, and after college, he took a job with Jeep driving on the off-road team. “I went on competition tours where I was every two weeks in a different city,” he said. “After a while, I thought that this



was not what I was meant to do. I was missing something in my life.” Clifford heard on the news about the need for increased numbers of men in Iraq, “And,” he said, “I saw Marines doing the job.” He talked to a recruiter, and in two weeks, he found himself in boot camp. “It was the

greatest decision I ever made,” he said. “I was first in my family to be in the Marine Corps. I chose the Marine Corps because I saw how they were different from the other services ... they stood taller.”

Sergeant Wiley has been in the Marine Corps for five years. After his



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first assignment in Iraq, he volunteered for two more deployments. "That's why I joined," he said, "to do what the Marines do there. The best time was when we got to know the locals in Iraq. We would go into their homes and drink tea with them and get acquainted." After the third tour, Sergeant Wiley requested a new assignment as a recruiter. "My wife is happy to be in Corsicana," he said. "She is working in day care now and she will use my education benefit [provided by the GI Bill of Rights]."

"The Marine Corps is the best and hardest, the most challenging service," Sergeant Wiley said. "A new recruit will do a sample Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test and a pull up test. If they don't pass the first time, I help them get where they need to be to meet the qualifications." Potential recruits can see a poster in the office that is a day-by-day calendar of what they will learn in boot camp training. They can also look at a poster showing the many kinds of careers they can choose. "It's not all infantry with a helmet and rifle," Sergeant Wiley said. "People think Marines only serve in combat units, but many careers are available; they can fly, be a welder, machinist, military police — even play in the President's own Marine Corps band in Washington, D.C." New recruits train for 12 weeks in San Diego. "If you really want to be a Marine, I'll help





you get there," he promised.

Chief Boatswain's Mate, Michael Mierzwik, is the recruiter-in-charge of the local U.S. Navy Recruiting Station. BMC Mierzwik has served in the Navy for 12 years. "I went to college, and at the end, reality hit me," he said. "I joined the Navy and I'll retire at age 43, with pay and benefits. You sacrifice something no matter what work you do. In the service, you are away from home sometimes. But you have pride being in the world's finest navy." His job was operating a crane on his ship's flight deck, and he was a trainer and mentor to younger sailors. On the office wall, BMC Mierzwik has a map that contains dozens of pins to show where he has served on both oceans — in Europe, North and South America and Africa. His ship also participated in rescue missions after earthquakes.

BMC Mierzwik has been a recruiter for 14 months. He said, "I like giving young people the opportunities I had." His home was in Baton Rouge, and he is also glad to be "back home in the South." He does presentations to 18 high schools, and has a table at Navarro College twice a month to talk to students about service in the regular Navy and in the Naval Reserve. The Armed Services once had a reputation for being a place to go when you couldn't make it in college or you had legal issues. "It is very different now," BMC Mierzwik said. "The Navy sent people to the moon; we defend people

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all over the world. Today the Navy is looking for the 'best and the brightest' to enlist." A recruit must pass the ASVAB test, meet physical height/weight requirements and have no criminal record," he added. "The recruits who are accepted for enlistment will spend eight weeks and three days [in] boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. They will do eight weeks of physical training and classes, then 'three days of hell' on a mock ship built by Disney to replicate onboard experiences. Recruits will face 14 scenarios including fire, flood, rescue, man overboard and other realistic events that they read about and now have to deal with live."

Army Sergeant First Class Kenneth L. Marion is a 17-year career Army man. His first career was in diesel mechanics. When he returned from Iraq, he elected to train as a recruiter, and he is now in his eighth year as station commander. He likes helping young men and women discover a career path in the military service. He emphasizes that it is not the Army that chooses the individual's career field; that recruits can choose from 150 job classifications. "I make presentations to all of the high schools and colleges in the area," Sgt. Marion said. He is often invited to address the staff and faculty of the



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## There are more than 100 photographs of area servicemen and women on the local Walmart Wall of Honor.

schools. Sgt. Marion understands educators, and he arranges to feed them while he talks about the advantages of an Army career.

Educators are impressed to learn that the recently amended GI Bill provides veterans with education benefits that include tuition, books and housing expenses for any public college or university the veteran may choose. A six-year veteran may choose to pass his or her eligibility for this education benefit to their children, and after 10 years of service, eligibility may pass to the wife or husband of the veteran. During enlistment, service men and women have extensive opportunities for education and training that carries college credit.

There are more than 100 photographs of area servicemen and women on the local Walmart Wall of Honor. "Many service people come from towns and cities like Corsicana," Sgt. Marion said. "Texas is one of the most patriotic states in the nation." **NOW**

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# Well Worth the Wait

— By Sandra Skoda



Even after 21 years of marriage, conversation and a light banter come easy for Brian and Sylvia Fry. They cannot help but laugh, as they remember the first time they met. “It was a blind date that neither one of us wanted to go on,” she said, as Brian nodded his head in agreement. They recalled meeting for dinner at the Locust Street Grill, a restaurant that was located, at that time, on the square in Denton. “The attraction was immediate,” Brian admitted. After a three-year courtship and engagement, the couple married in 1988 following Sylvia’s college graduation. “When we married, Brian still had one more year left to complete his degree,” she added.

Moving back to the area, as husband and wife, did not come until the spring of 1998 when the couple relocated from Garland to Ellis County. It was also the same year their oldest child, Austin, now 17, entered kindergarten. “I grew up in Ellis County, so coming home was suggested by my mom,” Sylvia explained. “My family, the Comiskeys, have been in the area since the late 1800s.” It was not long before Brian began to diligently look for a lake lot. “I’d been looking for this lot for five years,” he said referring to the acre of land the couple purchased in Sandy Cove, a new addition in Navarro



At Home With  
Brian and Sylvia Fry



County that allows for a magnificent view of Richland Chambers Lake.

Actually, the plans for the home were found on December 31, 2007, and the lot purchase did not take place until the later part of January. "We had to make the house plans fit the lot," Sylvia stated. "The process was lengthy, but well worth the wait." Builders



broke ground in September 2008, and by April, the home was complete and the family was able to move in. "We only lost two days, during the building process, due to weather," Brian mentioned.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the Frys are looking forward to hosting their first holiday dinner in their new home. Sylvia lovingly referred to this year's festivities as the "Fry





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Thanksgiving weekend." "We will be having turducken for no less than 20 people," she said. "It's a Cajun dish that consists of turkey, duck and chicken." The meat choice that the family of five, now including the 13-year-old twins, Alex and Evan, has come to enjoy is a bit difficult to describe. Each type of meat is de-boned before the "building" process begins. The chicken is stuffed inside the duck, and the duck stuffed inside the turkey. Dressing is layered between the chicken and duck, and again between the duck and turkey. "When carved, each slice will have all three meats in it," Sylvia added. Of course, they will also serve sweet potato casserole, green bean bundles wrapped in

bacon, gelatin salad and many pies, including Kentucky Derby and Vanilla Chess.

As for Thanksgiving traditions, both Brian and Sylvia agree that the prayer before the meal and the meal itself are the only constants from year-to-year. "Alex always does the prayer," Sylvia said. After eating, Brian will take the boys out for a time of hunting before returning to the screened-in back porch for some football. "We do switch our locations," Sylvia added. "Nothing has ever been carved in stone.

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There's variety every year." One other family tradition that has not changed over the years is decorating for Christmas. "I don't decorate until after Thanksgiving," she shared. "I agree with my friend. I think Thanksgiving needs to stand on its own; there are no expectations, no gifts, no real pressures."

Even though the temperatures have dropped, the Frys still find a lot to do outdoors. Scout, the family's pound dog, is usually not too far behind. The fire pit, fishing from the dock and nature alone will, no doubt, keep them entertained. Brian and Sylvia both love the outdoors, but for different reasons. "The wildlife is amazing," Brian said.

"There's lots of deer, coyotes, raccoons, frogs and birds." Brian smiled as he recalled the hummingbird he found in the garage. "I had to shoo him out with a broom," he added. Sylvia's voice became quite passionate as she described the sunrises and sunsets. "They're spectacular," she said. "We watched a meteor shower over a period of an hour-and-a-half. There must have been 15 shooting stars. Living in the country is incredible."





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The comfort they have successfully established within the walls of their two-story home offers a peaceful coziness on those days the weather keeps them indoors. The boys can spend time upstairs in their bedrooms, if they choose, or they can camp out in the media room with popcorn and a movie. Brian and Sylvia can relax downstairs in the living room or share a glass of wine in the home's wine room. "The wine room was a late change we made in the plans," Brian explained, adding that they stocked the built-in racks during their trip to Napa Valley in October. Brian's mother crafted a sign out of wine corks that simply reads 'Frys Wine Room.' It welcomes friends and family members alike. Other items Sylvia collects are quilts and the detailed ceramic villages

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that have become so popular during the holidays. The built-in shelves that flank the fireplace in the living room were incorporated in the plans to allow for the village collection to remain on display year-round, if so desired.

Since this home will be their retirement home, they added a few frivolous items. The most conversation-provoking amenities are the Roman shades found in the master bedroom



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and the rain showerhead in the master bathroom. “We built the home with ‘last home mentality,’” Brian said, as Sylvia pushed a remote control button and watched with a smile, while the Roman blinds quietly raised to show the view to the backyard, complete with dock and lake beyond. “We open the window blinds to see if the fish are jumping,” she laughed.

The kitchen is oversized, with built-in appliance garages and light shades made from crushed seashells over the bar. The twins’ bedroom, also referred to as the bunk room, has the extra space needed for weekend guests, while the upstairs game room, still an active work in progress, will one day offer the shuffle board the boys are hoping for. Sylvia put the home-building experience in a nutshell as she said, “It’s so beautiful. It turned out perfect. I wouldn’t change a thing.” **NOW**

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# THE MAN IN BLACK

— By Joan Kilbourne

who had more than 90 songs in the top 40 charts?”

Like many young men, Martin set out to build a career in the Navy. He trained as a boiler engineer and served on the U.S.S. *Caliente*, an oiler ship that refuels other ships in the fleet. The Navy tours took him to Europe, North Africa and Iceland. What did he see in Iceland? “Ice,” Martin said. It

was on board this ship that Martin sang for the first time at a “smoker” in front of 300 sailors. “Smokers are what we called the time when we were off duty and could get together,” he said. “We played rhythm and blues and some rock ‘n’ roll. I sang some Johnny Cash songs, too.”

Martin was impressed when one of the sailors wanted to join the band, even though he could not read music and had never played an instrument. “He just picked up the guitar and learned to play it so he could play with us. When we got shore leave, the band would play in bars in places like Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippine Islands. There was competition among the bars and they wanted the sailor

bands to play.” After the first enlistment, Martin signed up for two more years and then mustered out of the Navy. “I



If you think you hear the ghost of Johnny Cash singing in the next room, walk on in and say hello to Martin Jenkins. He is the man in black who is playing the guitar and singing in his rich bass voice. He will be glad to see you. Martin loves to entertain. He was in high school in Clovis, New Mexico, when he taught himself to play guitar, and he started a band with his friends. His home in Clovis was located near a recording studio run by Norman Petty, who was Buddy Holly’s manager. Martin met Buddy Holly and his group there. He also heard Johnny Cash perform in two concerts. “Did you know,” Martin asked, “that Johnny Cash was one of only five singers



Johnny Quarles and Martin Jenkins prepare to bring music to a group of senior citizens.



needed something different to do," he said, "and I never played in a bar again since then."

Martin returned to Texas and worked in Dallas for six months and then moved to Eureka. He met his



wife, Marsylene, when a friend fixed him up on a blind date. They have been married now for 44 years. They have two boys, Marty and Matt, and five grandchildren. The boys' families live on each side of Martin and Marsylene's home. When he moved to Corsicana, just on the border of Eureka, Martin worked for a while with a building contractor. Later, he started his own painting contracting business, working on houses in the Cedar Creek area and Corsicana. He worked for a few years in hospital maintenance and then in a lumberyard. "I never considered music for a career," Martin said. "I just played on and off."

While Martin often changed careers, he has been faithfully committed for 30 years to his position as song leader in his church, the Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Mildred. Martin is modest about his accomplishments. "I guess they picked me because I sang the loudest," he said. He is always ready to learn something new. "I took piano lessons for six months to learn to read enough music to read the hymnbook," he said. Then in the summer of 2000, Martin attended the Southern Gospel Music School. "I met people there who sang in the Glory Bound Gospel group, and I sang bass with them for a while."

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For many years, Martin played regularly with a band at the Twilight Nursing Home. "Sometimes just me shows up," he grinned. When the band dispersed, Martin continued to sing and play there by himself every second Wednesday and Saturday. "I like to play there," he said. "The people there are like family to me now." Martin also plays and sings at Jimmy Coker's in Navarro on Thursday night and at Jenny's Café in Palmer on Friday night. When Martin met singer Gail Abby they found their



voices blended and, together, they have made a CD called *Singing in the Old Country Church*. Included on the CD is an original song that Martin wrote called "Stairway of Tears." "There is a guitar and bass guitar and you can understand all the words," Martin pointed out, "not like some of the music you hear today." He has no agent to promote the sale of his CD, but hopes word of mouth will spread.

Not busy enough playing and singing his music, for many years Martin also has pitched in fast-pitch softball games all over Texas. Martin has retired more than once but, like many seniors today, he continues to work 40 hours a week. "I've always had a job," Martin said. He likes his job delivering medicine for the P & S Pharmacy. **NOW**

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## Glad Tidings

— By Kelly Kovar

John 3:16 Food Pantry in Mexia, a ministry of Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, began three-and-a-half years ago. "We wanted to help out senior citizens and single mothers," Pastor David Bolden explained. "There are a lot of people out of work, a lot of grandparents raising kids, and senior citizens on a fixed income who would be doing without if it weren't for the food pantry."

"We opened it with the idea of expanding to the community. We have grown to serving over 200 families a month." With a congregation that often runs less than 20 in attendance, David, and his wife, Pat, who directs the food pantry, would agree that volunteers are always needed. Many of their clients speak Spanish, so bilingual volunteers are especially helpful. "God has really supplied our needs in order for us to be able to do this," David said. "We draw support from friends and family of the church

body, some who are from outside of town."

Many who help in the food pantry on its two days a month, the first Tuesday and the third Monday, are senior citizens themselves. "On pantry days, volunteers begin their day at 8:30 a.m. as an 18-wheeler



arrives in town, delivering supplies from the Capital Area Food Bank out of Austin to the old Safeway/HEB location," David said. Supplies are picked up and shelves stocked. Then the pantry is open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Shoppers can make choices among groceries, household and paper goods, as well as hygiene and beauty items. Between 35 and 40 pounds of food are supplied to each family.

"At thanksgiving ... we order extra

food from Austin and during the holidays they include frozen turkeys and hams on the truck." In November, the John 3:16 Food Pantry receives a big hand from a local food drive. "HEB and Channel 10 out of Waco provide the advertising,"

David said. "The Boy Scouts and the National Guard collect food." On the Friday before Thanksgiving everybody brings canned goods, staples and non-perishable food items to the Guaranty Bank parking lot in Mexia. "Last year, we collected over 10,000 pounds of food. The food collected is split between us and Caritas, another Mexia food pantry."

The bounty from the local food drive supplements what is purchased with grants and what is received from the nonprofit nationwide food bank organization. "We get a big increase of people coming in over the holidays. The food we get on the drive will last us four months." For more information visit [Gladtidingsmexia.org](http://Gladtidingsmexia.org) or call Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church at (254) -562-6125. **NOW**

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**December 3, 4-8pm**  
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**6 pm Annual Christmas Parade of Lights**  
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**December 4, 10 am-6pm**  
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**7:00pm Little Miss Mistletoe Pageant-**  
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New  
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# Coach Town

— By F.L. Brewer

Everyone who encounters Coach Art Prevost would agree Corsicana High School's new Lady Tiger Basketball coach is one of a kind. He may be new to Corsicana, but his winning history is long and diverse. With his skills and determination, Art (known as Coach "Pre" by his students) is hoping to make the Lady Tigers a winning team.

Art's high energy level is his trademark. Not noted for standing still, he awakens early in the morning and is always in action, pursuing his goal. "The ladies basketball team has been sluggish in the past and Art was brought in specifically for ladies basketball," Coach Andy Dotson said, as he fondly referred to his fellow coach as the "Energizer Bunny times 10."

"I'm a little guy with a big heart and a big passion," Art said. "I don't want to be anybody else." Tona, his wife of 17 years, was quick to mention that what you see in Art is who he is. "There is nothing fake about him and the kids identify with that," she added.

When Art was growing up in Devers, Texas (near Beaumont), the fourth child of seven in a single-parent family, he had big dreams. His only wealth lay in the choices he could make to achieve those dreams. Although he came from a family strong in faith —

**"I'm a little guy with  
a big heart and a  
big passion."**





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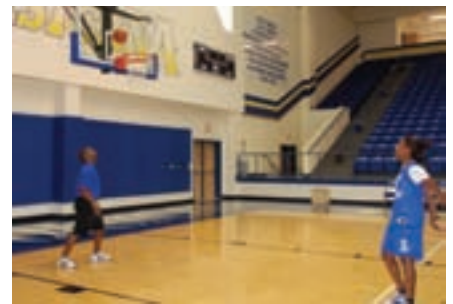
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born the son of Darlene Prevost, a mother who firmly believed in him — temptations to do wrong and get off track were ever present. In that way, he was no different from his peers. The difference is in the choices he made, and his choice-making began early. “I remember when I was 10 or 11, a group of kids were doing wrong, and I knew if I did it, I was going to be punished by my mom because my dad was absent,” he explained. “I had to make a decision. Also, living in a small town, everyone knows everyone else, and I knew my mom would find out.”

Although he had no father present, his days at Hull-Daisetta High School



were made better when a mentor came along. Coach Charles Walker was the man who recognized his potential early on and took a personal interest in him. The coach even went the extra mile, picking him up when his car broke down and teaching him how to overcome various challenges.

Art's eyes tear up when he speaks of the profound effect his mentor had on his life. “Coach Walker believed in me. He gave me the type of love a man can only give his son. He encouraged me,” Art recalled. “He never told me I couldn't have the things I wanted and he took me through real life situations.”

In the beginning, Art wanted to be a sports broadcaster. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree from Lamar University. During this time, he worked at both the No. 1 and No. 2 radio stations in the Beaumont area, first as an intern and then as an

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employee. However, he was more drawn to coaching.

His coaching career includes both university- and high school-level positions. He began coaching at Lamar University. His time there was followed by coaching at The University of Texas at El Paso, the University of California at Irvine, Texas Christian University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Ohio at Akron, Georgia



**“I see myself**

**in the students I see in the halls and who come through my door.”**

Tech and his last position was at Schulenburg High School, Schulenburg, Texas. He cannot thank the Corsicana ISD administration enough for bringing him to Navarro County.

After exploring various opportunities, Art has discovered his best fit is as a high school coach. “I am now Coach Walker 30 years later. I’m a high school coach. I see myself in the students I see in the halls and who come through my door.”

Art may have no hidden agendas, but he is always in action putting shoe leather to his rock-solid beliefs. The number to remember, he reminds his students, is 17. Though there is a season for learning defeat, his aim is to take the Lady Tigers to the playoffs by season’s end. It would be the first time in 17 years and the end of a long losing streak. **NOW**

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# Breaking the Cycle

— By Sandra Skoda



Mary Parks used to be shy, standoffish and quiet. That is no longer the case. These days, she is allowing herself to be heard at Full Circle Alcohol & Drug Education Program, located at 512 N. Main St., Suite A. "I originally thought I'd be counseling adults, but events that changed my family's lives forever changed my mission and made me realize there are adolescents and teens that really need someone to listen and facilitate an atmosphere for change in the unacceptable life patterns they are learning and developing."

Most days, Mary spends a great deal of time listening and educating. "I'm so passionate about helping those in need, I will draw my last breath doing just that," she stated. Today, Mary has reached a part of her goal by opening Full Circle Alcohol & Drug Education Program. Mary's mission began in her home several years ago. In fact, if not for the support of her mother, Tommie Keaton, and her daughter, Breanna Parks, who is her inspiration and heart, Mary would most



likely still be the shy woman in the background.

Recently, Mary received her master's degree in counseling from Texas A&M - Commerce. Mary is proud to say she is able to offer training in so many areas: truancy, DWI, parenting, domestic violence, anger management, tobacco cessation, and youth tobacco awareness program and alcohol education for minors, with a truancy boot camp in the future. She is also qualified to administer the SASSI (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory), an assessment for adults and adolescents to basically see if they have substance abuse disorders or substance abuse dependence disorders. The majority of



clients are court referrals, but walk-ins are always welcomed.

Mary's long-term goal is opening Eagle Cross Ranch, a nonprofit organization designed for boys at high risk of antisocial behaviors that can potentially lead to a life of crime. "What we offer at Full Circle and, ultimately, [at] Eagle Cross Ranch is the opportunity to learn how to make different choices," she said. "I want them to realize that the decisions and choices they make today will impact their lives, as well as others."

The idea for Eagle Cross Ranch came shortly after Mary met five young boys, who once lived down the road from her. Long story short, one of the young fellows, after being told a litter of kittens was still too young for any of them to be taken away from their mother, decided to return a couple of days later and take one of the kittens when Mary and her daughter were not looking. "I decided to go down to the boys' house," Mary remembered. "A blanket was draped up and served as the front door. When I saw the boys with that kitten, I was no longer upset." After the boys were "found out," they began to cry, which in turn spurred Mary to help. "I experienced many firsts with them," Mary said with emotion in her voice, "such as sitting at a table eating a meal and praying, doing homework, reading bedtime stories, and just laughing; not having to worry when or if you would eat."

Many have commented on Mary's big heart. Her heart's desire is to take the boys back to a simpler time. "I want to give them a *Gunsake*, *Little House on the Prairie* or *Bonanza* experience," she smiled. "I want to teach them how to work the land, the love of animals, and maybe grow their own gardens. My main goal is to break the cycle."

Mary noted that prospective clients are encouraged to stop by the office or call (903) 872-6727 or (903) 641-2075 for more information. **NOW**

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## Leader of the Pack

— By Joan Kilbourne

Dan Taylor, the new principal of Rice High School, comes from a family of educators. His father was principal of a large high school in El Paso. Both of his grandparents were educators for 35 years. His sister is a teacher, as is his sister-in-law and his niece and her daughter. Like many children whose parents are educators, Dan learned to read at an early age and he saw his parents treat education as important. As a young man, however, Dan saw himself on a different path. He attended Sam Houston State University and became a licensed athletic trainer. He could see himself being an athletic trainer for the Dallas Cowboys.

While Dan worked as a teacher and coach in Ennis, he pursued a master's degree in education administration at Texas A&M University - Commerce. The path to his future took a turn when he became assistant principal at Scurry Rosser High School. When the principal left the school, Dan served as principal for five years. "I saw my father's school in El Paso that had three or four thousand students attending. Then he became principal in Ennis for 16 years, and I learned that small is better. In a small school you get to know the students. When you can call them by name they know they are respected. You can have rapport with their parents," Dan shared.

Dan moved to Rice High School (RHS) to teach biology, coach football, lifting and track. He also became the curriculum guide in math and science. He had the

responsibility to evaluate teachers, review their lesson plans and observe their classes. "I used my 26 years of experience to be a mentor, a resource to teachers on ways of meeting curriculum standards."

When Principal Tom Herrin moved to a position in the district to help design a new vocational education program, he recommended Dan to serve as principal of RHS. Tom had been principal of the school since it was built, and his stewardship extended to the first day of classes when he came to school to help the new administration team. "It was great to have him here with us. Everything went well that first day, but he had to show us how to set the bell system. We have good support everywhere," Dan added. "We have a great school board and administrative staff."

Dan took on the new responsibilities with enthusiasm; ready to apply his own hands-on, personal approach to education. "If I see a puddle on the floor, I know where the mop is," he said. "We walk the halls so they [the students] know we are watching, taking care that everyone is doing well." Pride in his school is evident. "Before they move to a new location, parents go to the Texas Education Agency Web site to check out district statistics. It is important to them to know their kids will have a good school before they move in. Rice rates well. We have below 20 kids in most



## Education NOW

classes." RHS serves grades 6 to 12. "We offer certification programs for students who graduate and enter the workforce. We have certification in information technology and welding." Dan is looking forward to the programs for vocational training that will come from the district planning group that the former principal, Tom Herring, joined this year. "We hope to add certification in auto, nursing, cosmetology and criminal justice, which is training for the police force. We want our students to be able to make a good living when they leave here, so we need to give them training at the level they need to do that," Dan explained.

"College education is a goal for many of our students, so we offer dual credit courses in biology, literature, English and history," Dan said. "We try to push students to exceed the minimum." Some of the teachers are also involved in class sponsorship. They mentor the students who elect their class officers, raise funds for their prom and for charities. The students also plan their class field trip. "They are learning to be leaders," Dan said. A principal always has a wish list of things he would like to offer his students, and Dan would like to be able to offer debate, drama, literary criticism and music programs to round out the students' experience.

A program in character education is part of the effort teachers make to assist students. The school counselor guides the teachers to find ways to integrate such topics as respect and honesty into their particular subject. Like most educators, Dan believes that parent involvement in their student's studies is a key to student success. "I send out letters to the parents to invite them to meetings to talk about their concerns," Dan said, noting many parents worry about peer pressure influencing their children to be part of the wrong crowd. "Our approach to kids ... is to tell them, you can join a team or be part of a [positive] group here in school. We tell them, 'Be a Bulldog. Be proud of that.'" **NOW**

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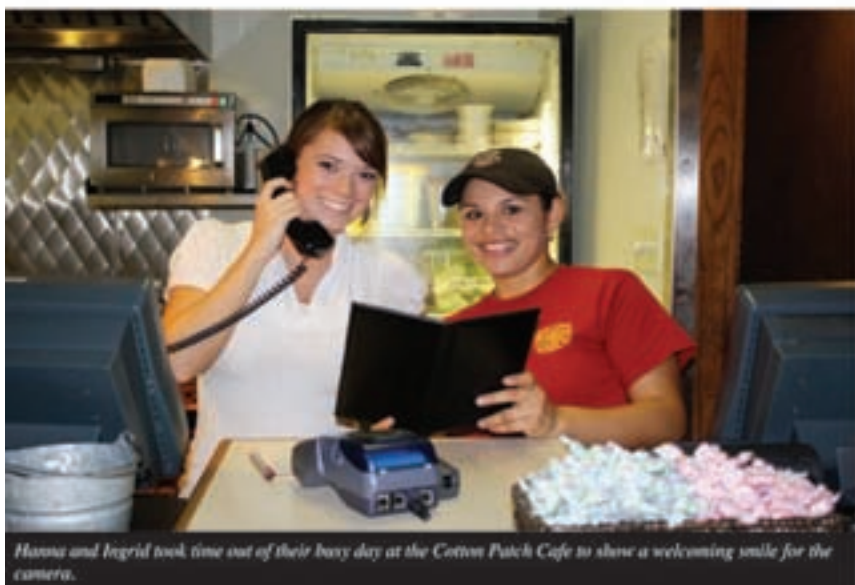
*Children enjoyed all of the activities, especially the pony ride, at the Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival.*



*Co-workers, friends and family pulled off a Mexican Villa themed surprise party for Tomja Burnesbee, who was celebrating her 50th birthday.*



*Ruby Williams presented Julie Teel with a door prize at the recent After Hours sponsored by Navarro Regional Hospital.*



*Hanna and Ingrid took time out of their busy day at the Cotton Patch Cafe to show a welcoming smile for the camera.*



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# Look Who's Cooking — By Faith Browning

## IN THE KITCHEN WITH LINDA MOFFETT

When *Corsicana Now* Advertising Manager Linda Moffett reflects on what inspired her love of cooking, she can recall many happy memories. "I had four brothers, and we grew up on a farm working in the cotton field," she remembered. "When we got in from working in the fields, mother would cook up a meal that we thought was 'fit for a king' (as Dad put it). We would all sit around the family table and laugh, eat and talk about the events of the day."

Today, Linda still enjoys getting together with her three children, her brothers and their families and friends. "I saw how much enjoyment my mother received from pleasing her family with her cooking," she said. "Now, nothing pleases me more than to put a feast on the table and see the smiles it brings." **✶NOW✶**

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### SUGAR PLUM CAKE

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground cloves
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 6-oz. jars plum baby food
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

#### GLAZE:

- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar
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- 2 Tbsp. milk

1. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Stir in oil, baby food and eggs; fold in pecans.
2. Pour batter into a greased and floured 10-inch tube pan.

3. Bake at 350 F for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack to cool completely.

4. In a small bowl, combine glaze ingredients until smooth. Drizzle over top and sides of cake.
- Note: As a substitute for each cup of self-rising flour, place 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt in a measuring cup and finish filling with all-purpose flour to make 1 cup. Yields 16-20 servings.*

### MOIST ROAST TURKEY

- 1 18-20 lb. whole turkey (giblets and neck removed)
- 2 cups kosher salt
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 large onions, peeled and chopped.
- 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 4 stalks chopped celery

- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup dry white wine (can substitute chicken broth)

1. Rub the turkey inside and out with kosher salt.
2. Place the bird in a large stockpot and cover with cold water. Place in refrigerator and allow the turkey to soak in the salt water mixture for 12 hours or overnight.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Thoroughly rinse the turkey and discard the brine mixture.
4. Brush the turkey with 1/2 of the melted butter. Place it breast side down on a roasting rack in a shallow roasting pan.
5. Stuff the turkey cavity with 1 onion, 1/2 the carrots, 1/2 the celery, 1 sprig of thyme and the bay leaf. Spread the remaining vegetables and thyme around the bottom of the roasting pan, and cover with the white wine or chicken broth.
6. Roast uncovered 3 1/2 to 4 hours in the

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preheated oven, until the internal temperature of the thigh reaches 180 F. Carefully turn the turkey breast side up about 2/3 through the roasting time and brush with the remaining butter. Allow the turkey to stand about 30 minutes before carving.

*Note: You can microwave the vegetables or boil them a little first to make them tender.*

## DRESSING

- 1 large hen
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2/3 stick margarine
- 3 recipes/packages prepared corn bread made the day before (use an extra egg/ per recipe or pkg.)
- 6 biscuits (you can use light bread, but biscuits are better)
- chicken broth
- salt
- poultry seasoning
- sage
- pepper
- 5-6 eggs, beaten

1. Bake a large hen in about 2 cups of water or cover it with water and boil in a large (6 qt.) pot to get broth for the dressing. Reserve a cup or so of the broth for gravy; remove the hen from the broth. Turn heat off.

2. Add onion and celery to broth; add margarine.

3. Begin adding crumbled corn bread and biscuits until the mixture is the consistency of loose mashed potatoes. Reserve a cup of this mixture for gravy. You can add canned chicken broth if you do not have enough cooked broth.

4. Salt and pepper to taste (starting with about 1/2 tsp. of salt).

5. Begin adding poultry seasoning, sage and pepper to taste. Start with two Tbsp. poultry seasoning and 1 Tbsp. sage (too much sage will make your dressing green). When you get the desired taste and the correct thickness, add the beaten eggs.

6. Pour into a greased roasting pan. Bake uncovered in 400 F oven until the dressing is set, browned and not jiggly! For the gravy, put the reserved broth and cup of unseasoned dressing into a saucepan, thicken with flour or thin with water or broth.

7. Add chopped boiled eggs and some chopped chicken meat. If you prefer, boil the giblets and cut them into the gravy. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

*This will serve about 15 to 20 people.*

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# What Kind of an Investor Are You?

— By Lynda Housley

If you are investing money or planning on doing so, there is one very important question you should ask yourself — *What kind of investor am I?* Knowing if you are an aggressive or conservative investor is the first step to knowing how you should invest your money.

## Determine your risk tolerance.

First you need to determine your risk tolerance level. Risk is the amount of volatility and uncertainty you're willing to accept from an investment in seeking your financial goals, like planning for retirement or a college education.

Some investments carry a higher level of risk than others. Generally, the higher the risk of an investment, the greater its potential returns. However, there is also a greater potential to lose your initial investment.

The lower the risk, the less likely it is for that investment to generate a higher rate of return. When you invest your assets in financial products that assume little or no risk, your money may not have the opportunity to grow as fast as you would like.

To help determine your risk level, ask yourself, *How comfortable will I be watching my investment go up and down in*

*value?* The more comfortable you are with price volatility, the greater the risk you are probably willing to assume.

## Consider time.

The next step in the process of determining your profile as an investor is to identify your time horizon, the amount of time between now and when you hope to reach your stated goal. Generally, the more time you have, the more risk you can afford to assume. The reasoning is: the longer your time horizon, the more time you have to ride out the market's ups and downs in pursuit of your financial goals.

Knowing what level of risk you are comfortable with can help you determine whether you are a conservative investor, an aggressive investor or somewhere in-between. This is an important first step because then you can focus on investments that provide you with the levels of risks and potential returns with which you are comfortable.

To find out more about the type of investor you are or the different types of investments that are available, contact a financial services professional. There is no assurance that any investment will achieve its investment objectives. Investment return and principal value



will fluctuate and the investment, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than its original cost. **NOW**

*Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.*

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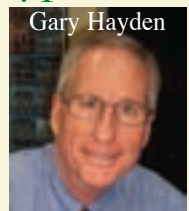
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# Hope for a Better Future

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

Ronald Reagan, 40th president of the United States, Charlton Heston, movie star and Norman Rockwell, artist, are just a few of the famous people who have had Alzheimer's disease. They put a face on a devastating illness. Facing the possibility of losing a little bit of oneself every day is a dismal prospect. The fear is real, and the disease is irreversible. Is there any hope?

Alzheimer's disease (AD) holds the dubious distinction of being the most common cause of dementia. We still do not know what causes this disease, but evidence points to brain damage occurring over a long period of time before any sign of forgetfulness becomes worrisome. How much forgetfulness is enough to warrant further examination? Obviously, if you are very concerned about this, a trip to your physician may allay your fears.

We all have those minor "senior moments" of forgetfulness. However, if memory challenges disrupt your daily routine in some manner, that may be cause for concern. Being unable to balance the checkbook when you have done it previously with little effort may be worrisome. An inability to follow a plan or understand a favorite recipe is another sign. Confusion is very typical with AD, such as not being able to travel to a known place or to find your way home. Anyone can forget about those very important dates, but we have the ability to

recall them later. A warning sign in AD is when important dates or even their purpose can no longer be remembered. Needing to retrieve the instructions to reset the clocks or other electronics is common. Not remembering how to brush your teeth or dress yourself needs evaluation. Those with AD may find it difficult to express themselves using the correct words or to understand others.

Although there is no cure yet, early detection is still useful and important. Early diagnosis allows one to be an active participant in planning for future care. It permits you to have a say in legal matters regarding your estate while you can still do so. Becoming involved in support groups will help to enhance the quality of your life. Your family can benefit from these services also.

Yes, there is always hope, and it may be in early diagnosis. Research continues to advance in this area and early treatment may become crucial. Early detection can give you an opportunity to receive treatment or participate in clinical trials that can slow down the progression of the disease. Knowing what is ahead may give you a better future. **NOW**

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician for questions regarding this topic.*

The advertisement is for the "Full Circle" Alcohol & Drug Education Program. It features a yellow background with a brown border. At the top, the words "FULL CIRCLE" are written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below this, there is a silhouette of a person kneeling next to a horse, with a cross above them. Underneath the silhouette is a black banner with the text "Alcohol & Drug Education Program" in white. To the left of the banner is a red starburst shape with the text "Please Call To Register For All Classes!". To the right is another red starburst shape with the text "Classes Taught in English and Spanish". Below the banner, the address "512 North Main, Suite A, Corsicana, TX 75110" and phone numbers "Office: (903) 872-6727 • Direct: (903) 641-2075" are listed. At the bottom, there is a list of programs: "• Alcohol Education Program For Minors (AEPM)", "• Texas DWI Education Program", "• Texas Youth Tobacco Awareness Program (TYTAP)", and "• Anger Management".



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## PLANT NOW FOR SPRING BLOOMS

— By Nancy Fenton

If you have not planted your bulbs yet for spring, there is still time. Buy them and get them in for splashes of yellow and white in February, March and April. Just be a bit careful about which varieties of narcissus, daffodils, jonquils and cyclamineus you choose. There are hundreds of varieties, but only a few do well enough in our heavy, alkaline, southern soil to come back in profusion year after year!

After a few false starts over the years, I have come to realize the beautiful King Alfreds are not right for our area. Most of the bulbs that will naturalize and bloom year after year are smaller and advertised as appropriate for USDA hardiness zones 8 or 9. The zones are based on the average minimum temperature ranges and the blooming history of the bulbs including the needed “cold time” for best blooms. Zone 8A shows our lowest temperatures to be 15 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Bulbs are actually “underground storage structures.” They shoot up foliage and a bloom, then go on to store food for a

“long summer’s nap” to bloom again next year. This is where temperature zones come in. Planted at a depth of two to three times the height of the bulb, the bulb will be protected from the heat, cold and water rot if it is suitable for our area.

Look on the packages you buy for the zone listings. Do not buy unless you see zones 8 or 9. The best bet for great bulbs is sharing with a neighbor who has a blooming abundance. My Internet search led me to the Southern Bulb Company at [www.southernbulb.com](http://www.southernbulb.com) and White Flower Farm at [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com). Both sites have lots of good information and pretty pictures. Nurseries operated by locals are also good sources for bulbs that will be successful in our area.



Some gardening friends, my husband and I are planning an 11-day trip to Holland in April 2010 to check out the homeland of all the great bulbs. It involves a small ship on the canals (unpacking only once), guided tours of Amsterdam, flower markets and flower farms.

If this interests you, go to [www.gct.com](http://www.gct.com) (Grand Circle Travel) and check it out. Use the member number 000809058; code VAPT008 for a special Fenton discount. **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*

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## Community Calendar

### All Month

Display of Margie Taylor's work, sponsored by the Navarro Council of the Arts: Warehouse Gallery, 119 W. 6th St.

### November 3 and 17

Safe Riders, a child safety seat distribution and education class: 5:00 p.m. Childbirth preparation class: 6:00 p.m. (Participation recommended during the fifth and seventh month of pregnancy.) Location: Navarro Regional Hospital. Contact Lindsey Barack at (903) 654-6885 for either of these two events.

### November 3 and 12

Navarro College SBDC's Write a Winning Business Plan workshop: 10:00 a.m., County Chamber of Commerce, 120 W. 12th St. Speaker: Robin Lasher, experienced entrepreneur and director of Navarro College SBDC, will explore the reasons a business plan is critical to the success of any business, especially if the business owners are looking

for a loan or an investor. (903) 875-7667.

### November 5

"Advance Directives and End of Life Decisions," sponsored by the Senior Circle of Navarro Regional Hospital: 5:30 p.m. at the hospital. Speaker: Amy Wheeler, LBSW, LNFA, Family First Hospice representative. Local hospice organizations will provide educational opportunities and materials, such as standard forms for Medical Power of Attorney, to assist families with end-of-life decision making. For more information, call Family First Hospice at (866) 834-3700, Caring Connections help line at (800) 658-8898 or the multi-lingual line at (877) 658-8896.

### November 12

Healthy Woman Annual Celebration: 6:30 p.m., Cook Center. For more information, call (903) 654-6948.

### November 12 - 15

*Oliver*, the Christmas musical, at the Palace.

For tickets, call (903) 654-4947.

### November 12 - 21

*The Big Black Dog* will be on stage at Navarro College's Black Box Theater. November 12-14th and 19th show times: 7:00 p.m. November 15th matinee: 2:00 p.m. November 21st matinee: 2:00 p.m. Evening performance: 7:00 p.m.

### November 14

Day in November Arts and Crafts show: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., College Park Mall.

### November 19

Downtown lighting ceremony: 5:00-7:00 p.m., downtown Corsicana.

*For more community events, visit our online calendar at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).*

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*Orthopedic Surgery/Sports Medicine*  
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972-544-2554

207 W. 5th St.  
Ferris, TX 75125  
**STARTING SEPTEMBER 1**



Dr. Fredric Puckett  
*Family Practice*  
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ERMC Medical Office Building  
Suite 101  
**STARTING JULY 1**



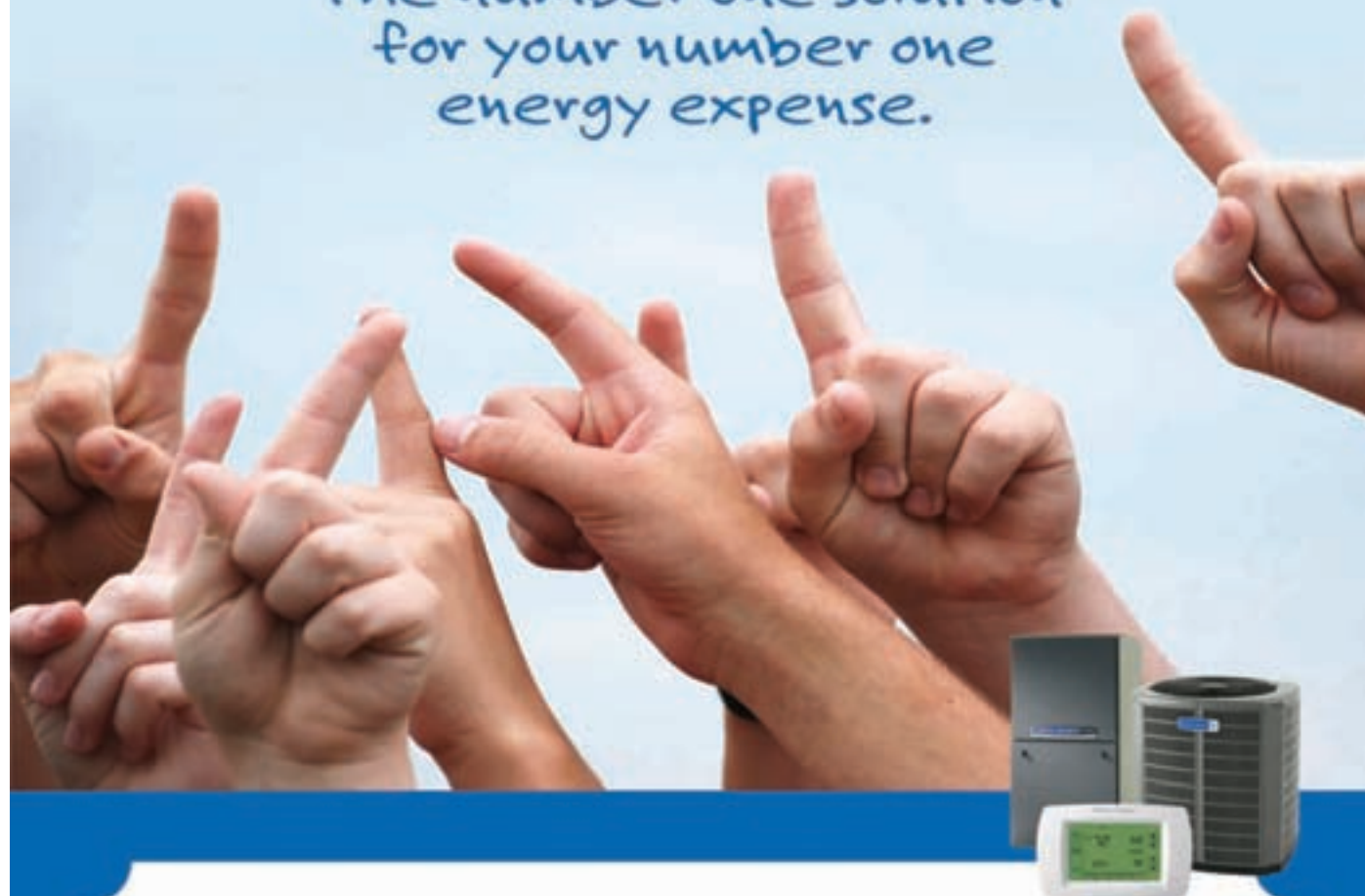
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